

SWOSU's Jason Johnson Receives Grant for Biomedical and Biochemical Research

06.18.2009

SWOSU Senior TaRynn Carder of Mooreland and (below) sophomore Kayla Wallis of Chickasha are working on a research project made possible by a \$25,000 grant that SWOSU and Professor Jason Johnson received from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The grant allows the students to work on biomedical/biochemical research.

SWOSU Sophomore Kayla Wallis of Chickasha

Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Dr. Jason Johnson, professor in the SWOSU Department of Chemistry and Physics in Weatherford, were recently awarded an Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education grant for basic research in the amount of \$25,000.

Dr. Johnson's project titled "Unraveling the GTP-Mediated Coordination of CTP Synthetase - INBRE FY09" will support biomedical/biochemical research involving undergraduate students at SWOSU.

The goals of the project are: (1) to determine mechanisms whereby the enzyme CTP synthetase is regulated in the cell, potentially revealing new modes of attack for anti-cancer, anti-parasitic, and anti-viral therapies; and (2) to expose SWOSU students to "state-of-the-art" techniques (such as site-directed mutagenesis, DNA sequencing, cell culturing, protein over-expression and purification, enzyme kinetics, and fluorescence spectroscopy) and to the creative and critical thinking strategies inherent to biomedical research, as preparation and, hopefully, inspiration for vocations in the natural and physical sciences.